

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07
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FM AMEMBASSY BERLIN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6589
INFO USIA WASHDC
AMEMBASSY WARSAW
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
USMISSION USBERLIN
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E.O.11652: N/A
TAGS: PGOV, GE
SUBJECT: GDR MEDIA TREATMENT OF WILMINGTON 10
AND NEUTRON BOMB

REFS: (A) 77 BERLIN 7053 AND PREVIOUS
(B) 77 BERLIN 8343 AND PREVIOUS

1. ALLGDR MEDIA ARE GIVING EXTENSIVE COVERAGE
TO RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN THE WILMINGTON 10
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CASE. MANY OF THESE STORIES ARE REPEATS OF WESTERN
WIRE SERVICE REPORTS ON THE CASE AND ON PROTEST
ACTIONS BOTH IN THE US AND IN OTHER COUNTRIES. THE
GDR PRESS HAS ALSO GIVEN PROMINENT ATTENTION
TO STATEMENTS BY THE REV. BEN CHAVIS
THAT THE WILMINGTON 10 ARE "POLITICAL PRISONERS".
THE GENERAL TONE OF THE COVERAGE AND COMMENTARY

IS ONE OF DISSATISFACTION THAT THE WILMINGTON 10 HAD NOT RECEIVED A FULL PARDON AND THAT THIS FAILURE CONSTITUTES AN INDICTMENT OF THE US JUDICIAL SYSTEM AND AMERICAN SOCIETY AS A WHOLE.

2. AFTER A PERIOD OF QUIESCENCE, WE HAVE OBSERVED A RECENT SIGNIFICANT INCREASE IN PRESS TREATMENT OF THE NEUTRON BOMB ISSUE. COVERAGE IS OF PROTESTS AGAINST THE NEUTRON BOMB, BOTH IN THE WEST AND IN EASTERN EUROPE, AND BY VARIOUS GDR COMMITTEES AND GROUPS. THE CHARACTER OF THE CRITICISM CONTINUES TO BE THAT THE NEUTRON BOMB IS BOTH INHUMANE AND A THREAT TO DISARMAMENT AND THEREBY CONSTITUTES A CYNICAL AND MILITARISTIC POLICY ON THE PART OF THE US.

3. COMMENT. WE ATTRIBUTE THE RENEWED INTEREST IN THE WILMINGTON 10 ISSUE NOT ONLY TO RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN THE US BUT TO THE RECONVENING OF THE BELGRADE CONFERENCE AND THE GDR DESIRE TO PUT THE US ON THE DEFENSIVE IN THAT FORUM. RENEWED ATTENTION TO THE NEUTRON BOMB ISSUE MAY BE RELATED TO BREZHNEV'S ROUND OF LETTERS TO WESTERN EUROPEAN LEADERS. END COMMENT.
BOLEN

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Message Attributes

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